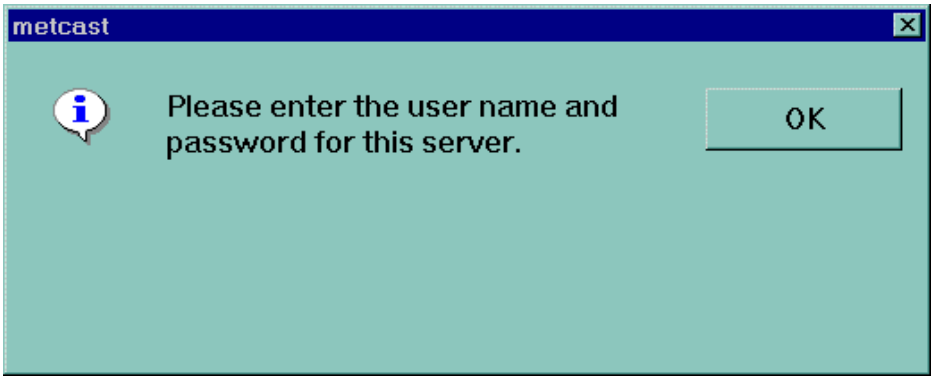
METCAST CLIENT QUICK START

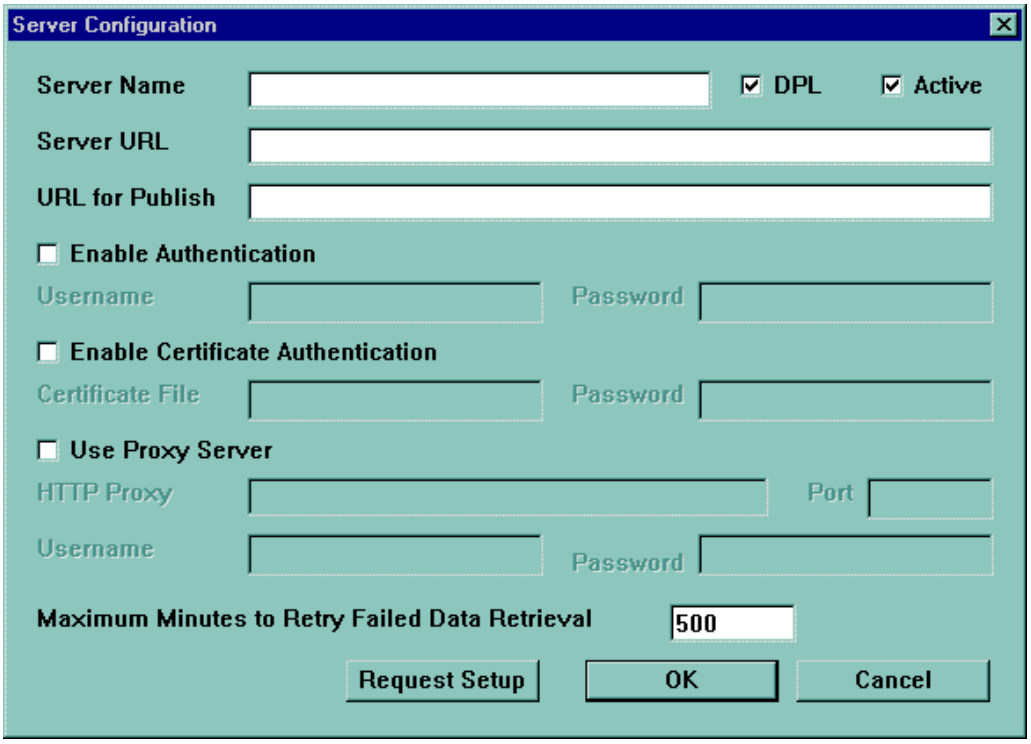
1 Connecting to a Server

When you first start METCAST Client after performing a new installation, a dialog will open, prompting you to enter a user name and password for the server:



User Name and Password Dialog

Click on the **OK** button and the Server Configuration dialog will open:



Initial Server Configuration Dialog

By default, this dialog contains entries for the server located at FNMOC. To use this server, ensure that the **Enable Authentication** checkbox is checked, then enter a valid **Username** and **Password** in the appropriate boxes.

To use a different server, enter the **Server Name**, **Server URL**, and **URL for Publish** in the appropriate boxes (consult with your System Administrator for the appropriate entries).

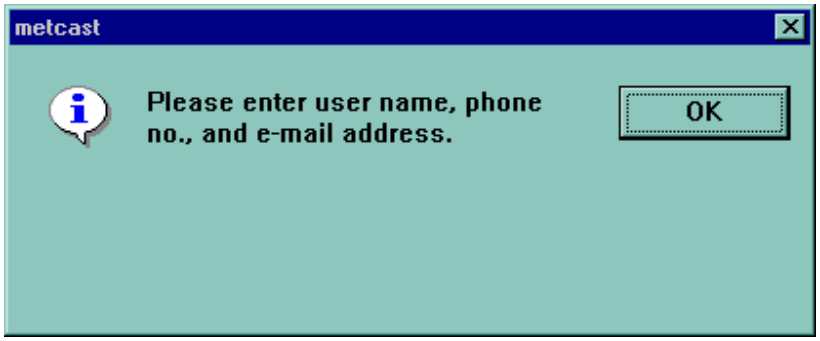
If accessing a server that requires certificate authentication, click the **Enable Certificate Authentication** checkbox, and enter a valid certificate name and password (consult with your System Administrator for the appropriate entries).

When METCAST Client was installed, it should have asked for verification of the IP address and port of your proxy server (it reads this information from your Windows registry). If the information was correct, and you are behind a firewall so that you need to use a proxy server, the **Use Proxy Server** checkbox should be checked, and the **HTTP Proxy** and **Port** boxes should be filled in with the correct information. You can check with your System Administrator to verify the information before proceeding.

The **Maximum Minutes to Retry Failed Data Retrieval** check box is pre-entered with a value of 500. This means that the retriever will continue to try to connect to a server for 500 minutes (approximately 8 hours) if no connection is made.

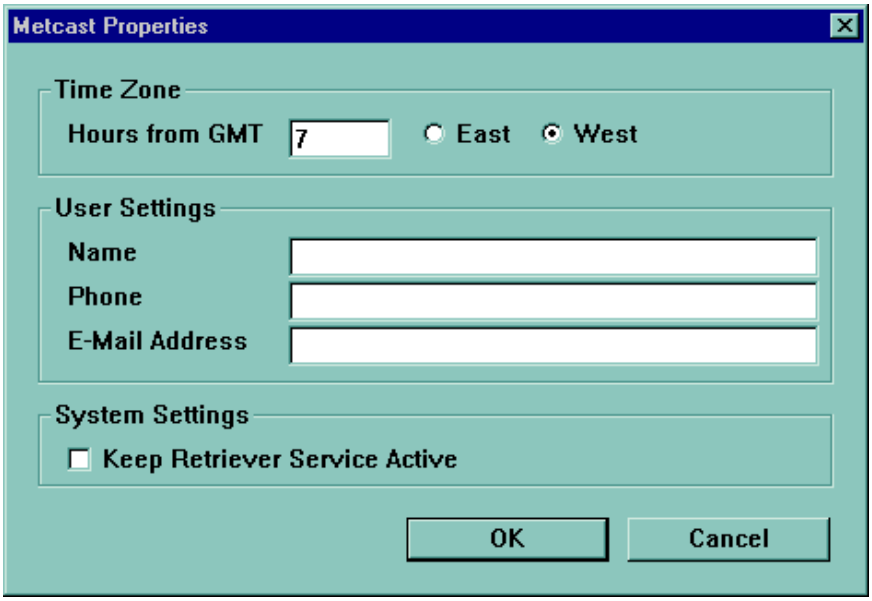
When finished with the entries, ensure that both the **DPL** and **Active** checkboxes are checked and then click on the **OK** button. This will close the Server Configuration dialog and start the download of the **Dynamic Product List** (DPL) for that server. The Dynamic Product List is simply a list of the products that are available on a server. Each time METCAST Client is started, and periodically thereafter, the DPL is downloaded to the PC running METCAST Client. It is possible to connect to multiple servers and to receive the product list from each.

The **Active** checkbox determines whether or not the server connection is “activated”. To communicate with a server, this box must be checked. After closing the Server Configuration dialog, the following message dialog will appear.



Metcast User Contact Information Dialog.

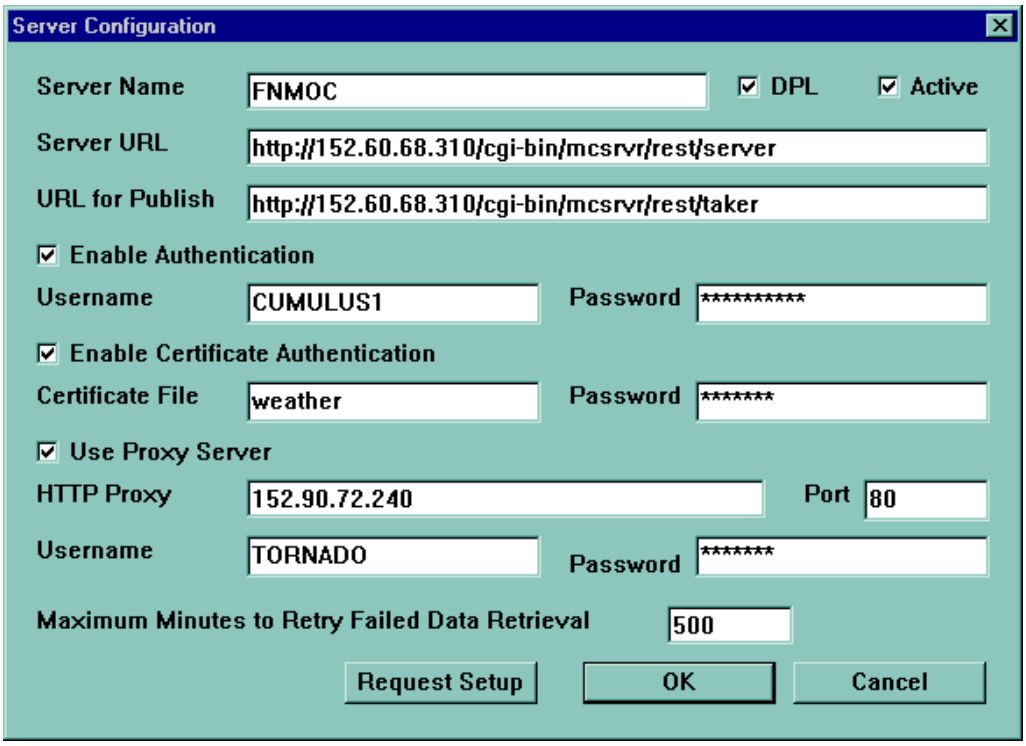
Click the **OK** button to open the Metcast Properties dialog shown below.



Metcast Properties Dialog

Enter the required User Settings information in the Name, Phone and E-Mail Address text boxes. Leave the Keep Retriever Service Active checkbox UN-checked, unless you intend to run Metcast as a Windows NT service. This is described further in Section 4, below.

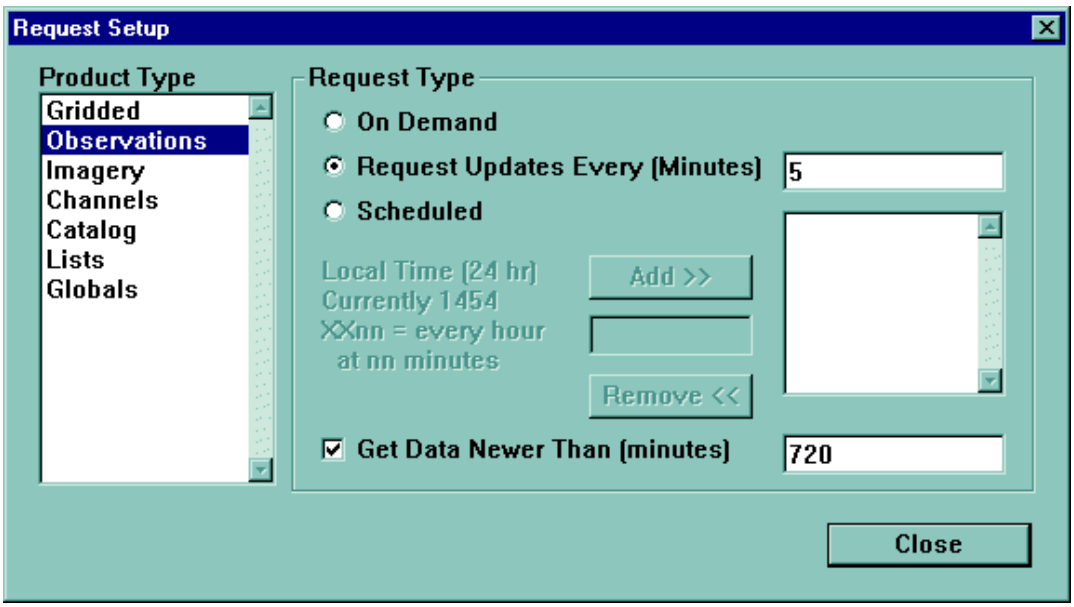
When you have finished configuring the server, the Server Configuration dialog should look like the image below.



Server Configuration Dialog With All Entries Completed

The **Request Setup** button opens the dialog shown below. This dialog is used to specify the Request Type (request method) for each Product Type available on the associated Server. The Request Setup Dialog box is pre-loaded with default settings for each product type, which the user may change as necessary. Click the **Close** button, to save all user inputs. Once saved, the request type/intervals become the default for the server.

A Request Setup dialog box is also available for each data Area defined by the user, and is used to setup request types for the area. When the Area Request Setup is used, it overrides the Server Request type settings.



Request Setup Dialog

The list box at the left allows you to select the particular product type you want to configure. The radio buttons in the center section specify the type of retrieval to be done for this data type. The options are:

On Demand	The retrieval is performed once, as soon as the area is scheduled, and not repeated. The term *scheduled* in this context is different than that used below to define retrievals at specific times. See section 5.7 in the Metcast Users Manual for instructions on scheduling an area or list.
Request Updates Every (Minutes)	A retrieval is started when the area is scheduled. The specified number of minutes after completion of the first retrieval, another retrieval is started. Retrievals continue to be started automatically the specified number of minutes after completion of the preceding retrieval.
Scheduled	Retrievals are started at specified times. When this option is selected, the **Add** >> and << **Remove** buttons and the **Local Time**

text box between them become active. Type a time into the Local Time text box and then click the **Add >>** button to add it to the list of times shown in the list box at the right. A time may be removed from the list by highlighting it and then clicking the **<< Remove** button. A retrieval will be started at each of the specified times.

The **Get Data Newer Than (Minutes)** checkbox and text box may be used to prevent the continuous downloading of old data. The default setting for Imagery and Gridded data is 720 minutes (12 hours), which means that only data less than 12 hours old will be downloaded. The default setting for Observation data is 90 minutes. This feature is enabled only when the **Scheduled** or **Request Updates Every (Minutes)** radio buttons are selected. The checkbox is permanently checked for **Observations** and **Imagery** data, however, the corresponding time displayed in the text window may be modified to any number of minutes greater than zero.

Click the **Close** button to accept your selections and close this dialog. You will be returned to the Server Configuration dialog.

The **OK** button in the Server Configuration dialog accepts the settings on the screen and exits the dialog. These settings will then be used until changed. This will also start up the Retriever to download the Dynamic Product List. The product list must be downloaded before you can start defining areas and selecting products to download.

The **Cancel** button exits the dialog without making any changes to the settings.

When you first started METCAST Client, a cloud icon like this  should have appeared in your Windows System Tray (the group of icons on the right-hand end of the task bar). When you close the Server Configuration dialog, you should see a flashing lightning bolt below the cloud in the icon. This indicates that METCAST Client is now downloading the product list from the FNMOC server. When the lightning bolt stops flashing, the product list download is complete, and you can proceed with selecting areas and products (refer to section 5.3, Defining, Selecting, and Managing Areas in the Metcast Users manual for additional details).

2 Other Implementation Details

This section discusses some details that may need to be attended to after installation of the software.

2.1 Ensuring That the Storms Directory is Present

The Storms directory under the jmvwin\noddsfls directory is used to store downloaded tropical cyclone warnings. If this directory is accidentally deleted or otherwise missing, tropical cyclone warnings may be lost after they are downloaded. After installation, you

should therefore check for the presence of this subdirectory and, if it is not present, create it.

In Windows NT, you can check for the presence of the directory by opening the Windows NT Explorer (click on the **Start** button, select **Programs** in the popup menu, then click on **Windows NT Explorer** in the second popup menu). Make sure that you're viewing the drive where Metcast Client and JMV were installed. The default drive is the C: drive (the Address line should say C:\). In the left-hand window, scroll down to the jmvwin folder and click the box with a '+' sign next to it to open it. You should see something like this:

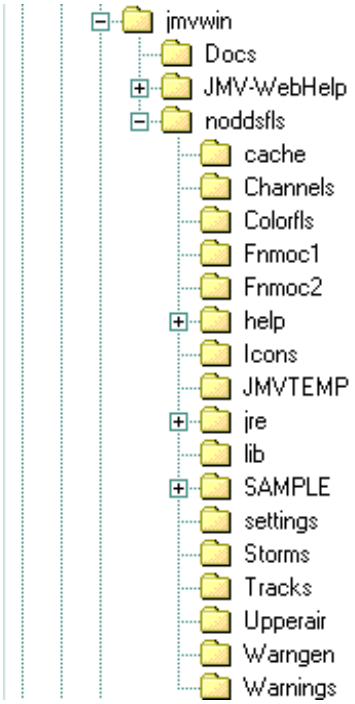


Figure 1. Windows NT Explorer File Tree for the C:\jmvwin\noddsfls Directory

If the Storms directory is not present, you can create it by:

1. Clicking on the folder symbol next to the noddsfls directory. This will open the contents of the folder in the right-hand pane, and will change the folder symbol to an open folder.

2. In the Menu Bar, click on **File**, then click on **New** in the drop-down menu.

3. In the fly-out menu that appears, click on **Folder**. This will place a folder symbol with a highlighted New Folder entry in the list on the right-hand side.

4. Type the name of the new folder (in this case, **Storms**) at the highlight, and then hit the Enter key.

3 Running the Retriever Service as a Windows NT Service (Windows NT Platform only)

METCAST Client may run the Retriever Service as a native Windows NT service. Below are the advantages and disadvantages of running the Retriever Service as an NT service.

Advantages of being an NT Service:

- Running the Retriever Service as an NT service allows your computer to make METCAST requests while nobody is logged on to it. You can set up your requests using the GUI and then exit the GUI or even log off the machine, and the retrievals will still continue.

Disadvantages of being an NT Service:

- Additional install/uninstall steps

- The System Tray icon for the Retriever Service is not available meaning that you must run the Retriever Monitor via the `RetrieverMonitor.exe` program rather than double-clicking the system Tray cloud icon.

3.1 Installing the Retriever Service as an NT Service

The following steps are required to install the Retriever Service as an NT Service for METCAST Client version 1.7.0.0 and higher. (Administrator privileges are necessary when performing these operations).

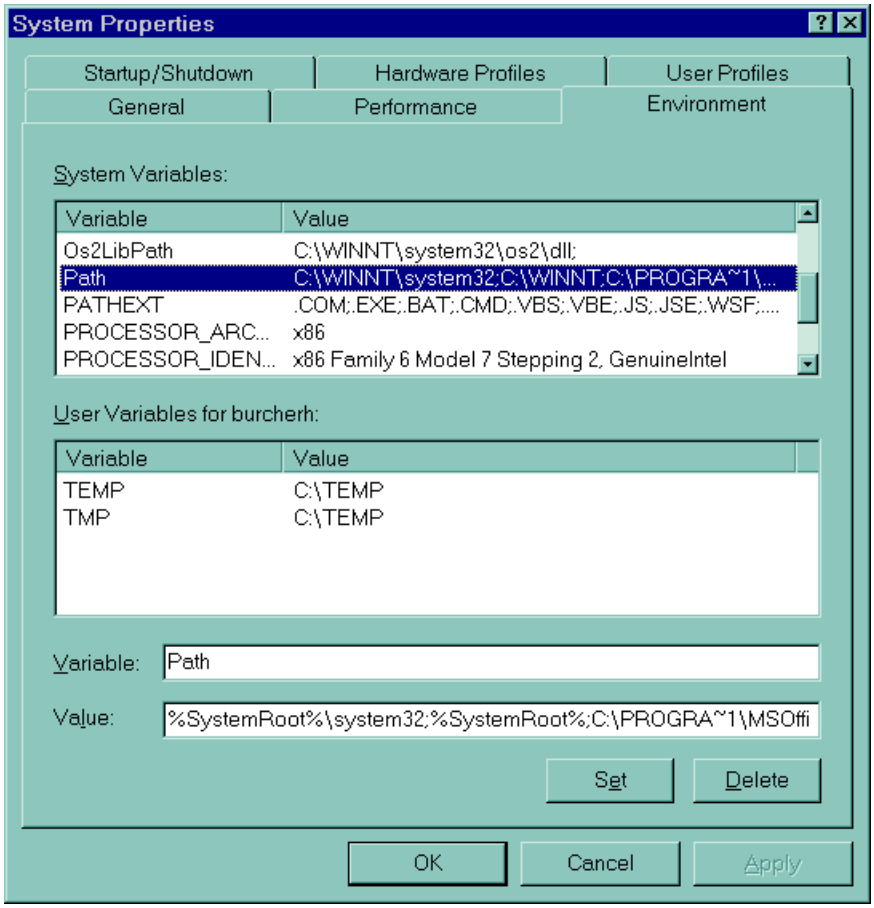
1. Install METCAST Client version 1.7.0.0. Earlier versions of Metcast Client require a slightly different path setting. If using an earlier version of Metcast, refer to the corresponding Users manual for directions.

2. Ensure that no METCAST Clients are running on your system. If there are any, exit them now. If a Retriever Service cloud icon is in your System Tray, right click on it and choose **Shutdown Retriever** from the popup menu.

3. The path to the Java Virtual Machine dynamic link library file (jvm.dll) must reside in the system path. To append the jvm.dll path to the existing system path, follow the steps below:

   a. Open the Windows Control Panel and double click on the **System** icon to open the Windows NT, System Properties Dialog box.

   b. Click on the **Environment** Tab to display System Variables as shown below.



Windows NT System Properties Dialog box.

c. Locate and highlight **Path** in the System variables text box. The Path and its Value will appear in the Variable and Value text boxes at the bottom of the dialog box. Click inside the **Value** text box and move the Cursor to the end of the path. Append the following path (without quotation marks) to the existing path. Ensure that there are no spaces between the existing path and the new path value.

";C:\jmvwin\noddsfls\jre\bin\client"

Note: If Metcast Client was installed on a drive other than the C drive, enter that drive letter in place of the C.

d. When finished, click on the **Set** Button. This will activate the **Apply** button. Click the Apply button, and then click on the **OK** button to save your inputs and close the dialog box.

e. Shut down and restart your computer to activate the changes in the system path.

4. Open a DOS command prompt window and set the directory to noddsfls by typing the command: **cd C:\jmvwin\noddsfls**. Ensure that the proper drive letter is used if Metcast was installed on a drive other than the C drive.

The following command will install the Metcast Retriever Service into the Windows NT Services List. Type this command and press Enter:

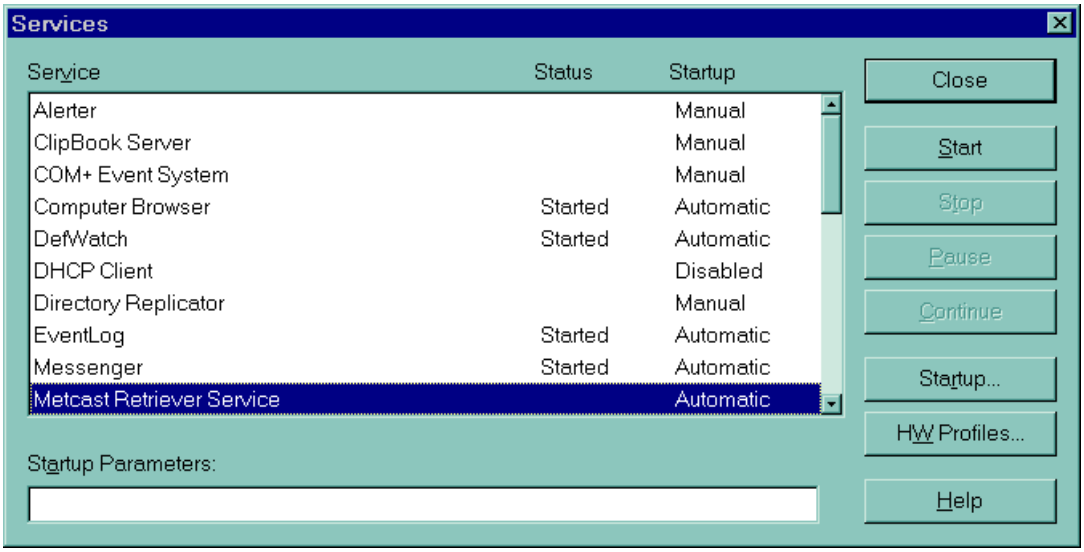
ServiceManager –i –Djava.class.path=lib\kiwi.jar;lib\omnicast.jar

–Djava.security.policy=omnicast.policy wrkdir=c:\jmvwin\noddsfls –daemon

Note: When typing the command, include a space between the end of the first line above (…omnicast.jar) and the beginning of the second line (–Djava…). If Metcast was not installed on the C drive, enter the appropriate drive letter in place of the c, in the second line of the command.

The response: *Metcast Requester Service Installed* will appear soon after executing this command. You may then close the DOS window.

5. Open the Windows NT **Services** Window by double clicking on the **Service** icon located in the Windows NT Control Panel. Locate and highlight the newly installed **Metcast Retriever Service** entry, as shown below.



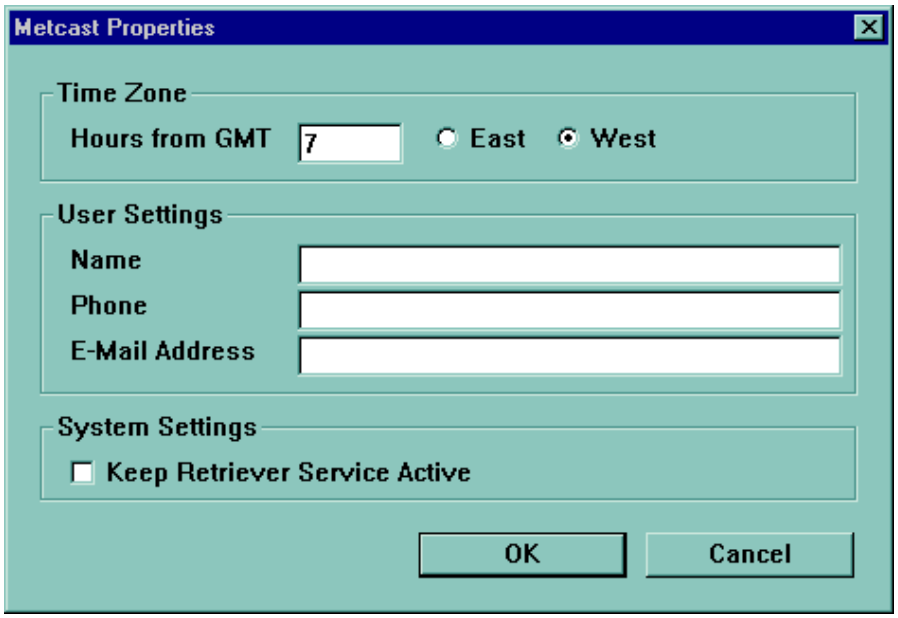
Windows NT Services List

The Startup setting associated with the Metcast Retriever Service should be listed as **Automatic**. If it is not, click on the Startup button, then select Automatic from the list of Startup options. Click on the OK button to accept this change and you will be returned to the Services Dialog box.

Press the **Start** button to start the Metcast Retriever Service as a background application. Within a few seconds a "Started" status will appear in the Service window. You may then close this dialog box. From now on, the Retriever Service will automatically start during bootup of your machine.

6. Although the Metcast Retriever Service will start automatically upon system boot up, the Metcast Requestor must be manually started at least once after boot up to initiate the *retrieval sessions* for the defined areas and lists. The **Keep Service Active** option must also be selected.

   Launch Metcast Client and open the **Options** menu. Select the **Properties** option to open the **Metcast Properties** dialog shown below. Click the **Keep Retriever Services Active** box.



Keep Service Active Menu option

Note that the icon for the Retriever Service does not appear in the System Tray. To monitor your METCAST retrievals, you must run the executable file `RetrieverMonitor.exe` that is located in the noddsfls directory. A short cut to this program is located within the Start menu\Programs\FNMOC-SPAWAR folder.

Once Metcast requests and retrievals are being made, the user may close the Metcast GUI. Data requests and retrievals will continue to be made even when the user has logged off of the machine.

Note: The Retriever Service must be removed as an NT service before METCAST Client can be uninstalled. The procedure for removing the Retriever Service as an NT service is described in Section 3.2 below.

3.2 Uninstalling the Retriever Service as an NT Service

To stop running the Retriever Service as an NT Service, follow the two steps below (Again, you must have administrator privileges)

1. Exit any Metcast Clients that may be running.

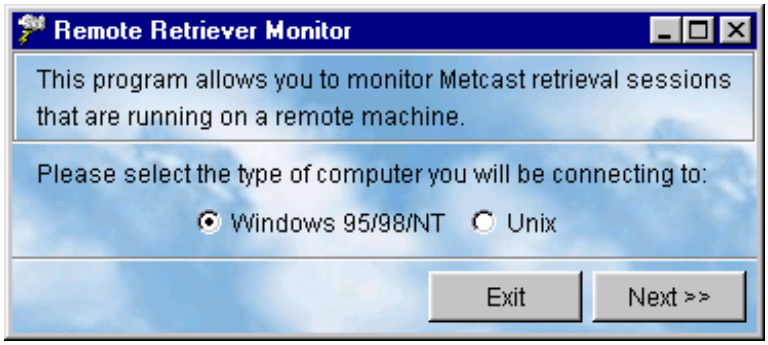
2. Open a DOS Command Prompt window and set the directory to jmvwin\noddsfls. Enter the command: **ServiceManager –r**. This command will remove the Metcast Retriever Service from the Windows Services List. The message "*Metcast Retriever Service remove"* will confirm that the retriever service has been removed from the Windows NT Services List.

3.3 Monitoring a Retriever Service From a Remote Computer

METCAST Client Versions 1.0.0.3e and later come bundled with a special purpose Retriever Monitor that is called the Remote Retriever Monitor. The Remote Retriever Monitor enables you to monitor METCAST Retrievals that are occurring on a remote system. This means that you can monitor retrievals for JMV's remote areas, or monitor retrievals occurring on remote machines where the Retriever Service is running as a Windows NT service (see above). Without logging on to the system, the Metcast retrieval activity can still be viewed remotely.

To run the Remote Retriever Monitor, follow the steps listed below:

1. Go to your `jmvwin\noddsfls` directory and run the program `RemoteRetrieverMonitor.exe`, or execute the shortcut "RemoteRetrieverMonitor" located in the Start Menu/Programs/FNMOC-SPAWAR folder. The following window will appear:



Remote Retriever Monitor operating system selection.

2. Select Windows 95/98/NT and then click the Next button. You will see the following screen:

Remote Retriever Monitor IP address input.

3. Type in the IP address for the computer of which you wish to monitor retrieval sessions and then click the Next button. A Retriever Monitor will now be displayed that shows METCAST retrieval activity on the remote computer.